Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

LEE, JULIAN C. 1983. *Anolis sericeus.*

Anolis sericeus Hallowell
Silky Anole

Anolis sericeus Hallowell, 1856:227. Type-locality, "El Euceros le Jalapa (=El Encero de Jalapa, Veracruz), Mexico." Holotype, formerly in Acad. Natur. Sci. Philadelphia, now lost (*fide* Stuart, 1955:22).

Anolis sallaei Günther, 1859:421. Type-locality, "Central America" (given as "Mexico" by Boulenger, 1885:80). Holotype, apparently a female, British Mus. (Natur. Hist.) 1946.8.5.69, M. Sallé, collector (not examined by author). See NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.

Anolis longicauda Hallowell, 1860:481. Type-locality, "Nicaragua." Holotype, Acad. Natur. Sci. Philadelphia 7884, collected by the North Pacific Exploring Expedition (not examined by author). See NOMENCLATURUAL HISTORY.

Anolis ustus Cope, 1864:172. Type-locality, "Belize." Syntypes, British Mus. (Natur. Hist.) 1946.8.5.60–61, males, collector and date of collection unknown (not examined by author).

Anolis heliactin Cope, 1864:172. Type-locality, "Mexico." Holotype, Acad. Natur. Sci. Philadelphia 7914, sex, collector, and date of collection unknown (Malnate, 1971). Not examined by author.

Anolis jacobi Bocourt, *in* Duméril and Bocourt, 1873:74. Type-locality, "provenant de la Vera Cruz," restricted by Smith and Taylor (1950:351) to Veracruz, Veracruz, Mexico. Holotype, Mus. Hist. Natur. Paris 2406, male, Leprevost, collector (Guibé, 1954) (not examined by author).

Anolis binotatus (not of Peters): Bocourt, *in* Duméril and Bocourt, 1873:92. See NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.

Anolis palpebrosus: Dunn, 1930:18. In error.

Anolis ustus verae-pacis Barbour, 1932:98 (part). See NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY.

Anolis ustus ustus: Barbour, 1932:98. First use of combination.

Anolis kidderi Ruthven, 1933:1. Type-locality, "*Quinta* at Mérida, Yucatán" (Mexico). Holotype, Univ. Michigan Mus. Zool. 72851, male, collected on July 24, 1932 by E. P. Creaser (examined by author).

Anolis ustus wellbornae Ahl, 1939:246. Type-locality, "El Salvador" (San Salvador, according to Mertens, 1952:44). Holotype, Zool. Mus. Berlin C1051/35710, male, collected by V. Wellborn (not examined by author).

Anolis sericeus sericeus: Stuart, 1955:25. First use of trinomial.

Anolis sericeus wellbornae: Stuart, 1955:26. New combination.

Anolis sallaei wellbornae: Smith and Kerster, 1955:201. New combination.

Anolis sallaei sallaei: Alvarez del Toro and Smith, 1956:8. First use of trinomial.

Anolis sallaei wellbournei: McCoy and Van Horn, 1962:182. *Lapsus.*

Anolis sericeus ustus: Duellman, 1965:596. New combination.

Anolis sallaei ustus: Smith and Taylor, 1966:13. New combination.

Anolis sallaei sericeus: Alvarez del Toro, 1973:166. New combination.

• CONTENT. No subspecies are currently recognized (Lee, 1980).

• DEFINITION. A small, attenuate anole, near the minimum size for the genus. Males and females from the Pacific slope of Chiapas and Guatemala average 45.4 and 41.0 mm snout-vent length, respectively (Fitch, 1976:5). The magnitude of sexual size dimorphism varies geographically (Lee, 1980:314). The dorsal scales are small and heavily keeled, with six to eight middorsal rows somewhat enlarged. The ventrals are keeled and larger than the dorsals. The dorsum is predominantly unicolor gray to bronze with a silky sheen, and with indistinct dark reticulations and spots, especially on the legs. The venter is uniform pale yellow to white. Females exhibit pattern polymorphism in which some individuals have a light vertebral stripe. Males have a yellow-orange to reddish dewlap with a blue or purple central spot; in females the dewlap is rudimentary and bears only a trace of color.

• DESCRIPTIONS. In addition to the original descriptions of *A. sericeus* and its synonyms, brief descriptions are given by Fitch (1973, 1975), Fitch and Henderson (1973), and Henderson and Fitch (1975).

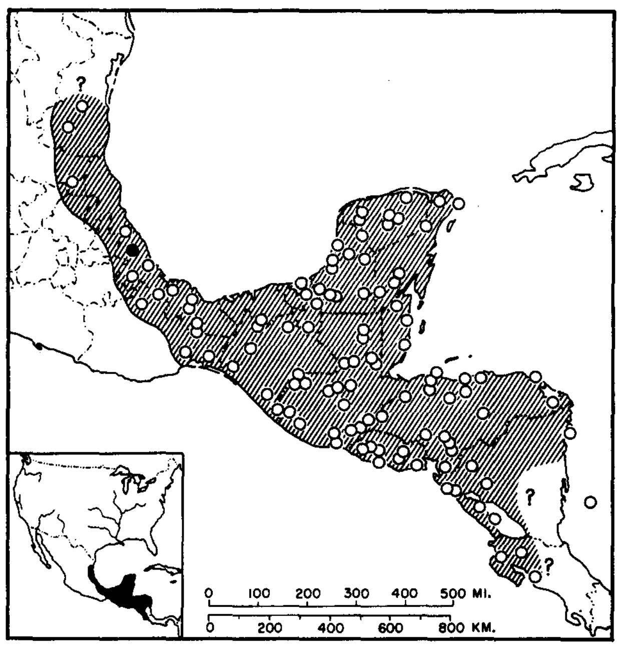
• ILLUSTRATIONS. Black and white photographs of *A. sericeus* are in Alvarez del Toro (1960; as *A. sallaei*), and in Fitch (1973). Line drawings of scutellation appear in Bocourt, *in* Duméril and Bocourt (1873; as *A. jacobi*, *A. sallaei*, and *A. heliactin*), Günther (1885–1902; as *A. salaei* and *A. ustus*), and Lee (1980).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Anolis sericeus* occupies low and intermediate elevations from Tamaulipas, Mexico, to Nicaragua on the Atlantic versant, and from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec south to Costa Rica on the Pacific versant. The northernmost locality is 13 km SE Padilla, Tamaulipas, Mexico (24°01'N, 98°41'W; Martin, 1958). The southernmost station is Boca de Barranca, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica (09°58'N, 85°16'W; Fitch, 1973). Mertens (1952) published a photograph of the habitat of *A. sericeus* in El Salvador.

• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. The most recent and comprehensive systematic treatment is that of Lee (1980). Stuart (1955) studied morphological variation in populations from throughout the range of the species, exclusive of the Yucatán Peninsula. Ecological studies include those of Henderson and Fitch (1975) and Fitch (1973, 1975). The latter studies also present data on thermal biology and reproduction. Distributional reviews are available for various countries and geographic areas, as follows: Mexico (Smith and Taylor, 1966), Central America (Peters and Donoso-Barros, 1970), Belize (Henderson and Hoevers, 1975), Guatemala (Stuart, 1963), Honduras (Meyer and Wilson, 1973), and El Salvador (Mertens, 1952).

• NOMENCLATURAL HISTORY. Günther did not designate a holotype for *Anolis sallaei*. Stuart (1955:25), basing his remarks on correspondence with H. W. Parker of the British Museum (Natural History), concluded that the specimen upon which Günther based his description is a female, which ". . . almost certainly originated from Veracruz, probably the Jalapa region." According to Parker,



MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality, open circles indicate other localities. Uncertain range limits are indicated by question marks.

this is the specimen figured by Günther (1885–1902:Pl. 27, Fig. B), and recognized by Boulenger (1885:80) as the holotype. Barbour (1934:150) placed *Anolis longicaudus* Hallowell as a synonym of *A. sericeus*, although he admitted that the holotype is dried and unrecognizable. Other authors (Peters and Donoso-Barros, 1970, for example) have not followed this allocation. Bocourt (*in* Duméril and Bocourt, 1873) incorrectly applied the name *Anolis binotatus* to specimens of *A. sericeus* from La Union, El Salvador (Mertens, 1952:43). Schmidt (1941:493) pointed out that the holotype of *Anolis ustus verae-pacis* Barbour is referable to *Anolis bourgeaei* Bocourt, and Stuart (1948:51) noted that the paratypes are *Anolis sericeus*.

• ETYMOLOGY. Although not given by Hallowell, the Latin word *sericeus* means "pertaining to silk," perhaps in reference to the silky appearance of the dorsum of this species.

COMMENT

Stuart (1955:29) argued that *A. ustus* and *A. kidderi* are distantly related to *A. sericeus*, and that their similarities to *A. sericeus* are the result of convergence. Duellman (1965:596) compared specimens from the Yucatán Peninsula with samples from Veracruz, Mexico and El Petén, Guatemala, and assigned *A. ustus* to subspecific status within *A. sericeus*. Lee (1980) showed that the supposedly diagnostic characters of *A. kidderi* are insufficient to distinguish it from *A. sericeus* from throughout the Yucatán Peninsula, and that the latter are not distinct from extra-peninsular populations. Lee (1980) concluded that *A. kidderi* and *A. ustus* are synonyms of *A. sericeus*, and that recognition of subspecies within *A. sericeus* is unjustified.

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